

--This application is a continuation of International Application No.

B1 PCT/JP00/02171, filed April 4, 2000, published in Japanese under PCT Article 21(2) as publication no. WO00/60568 on October 12, 2000, which claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-097852, filed April 5, 1999.--

REMARKS

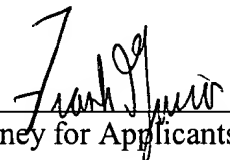
It was recently noticed that the sentence cross referencing parent International Application PCT/JP00/02171, inserted by the Preliminary Amendment filed on November 30, 2000, did not indicate the language in which the International Application was published, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) . Accordingly, this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment has been filed to amend the specification to indicate that parent International Application No. PCT/JP00/02171 was published in Japanese as publication no. WO00/60568 on October 12, 2000.

Since the specification was amended in the Preliminary Amendment originally filed with the present application to refer to the International Application and Japanese Application No. 11-097852, upon which the present application claims the benefit of priority, it is believed that no petition, statement, or surcharge under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.78(a)(3) are required in connection with the present Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. However, if the Examiner believes that any such petition, statement, and surcharge are required, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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